Steps to reduce poverty

4590. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to reduce poverty in the country since the inception of the present Government so far,

(b) whether Government have undertaken any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti poverty programmes.

There are several steps being taken by Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation to reduce the number of people living below poverty line in rural and urban areas. For rural areas the programmes are (i) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (ii) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (iii) Indira Awaas Yojana and (iv) National Food for Work Programme. For urban areas the programmes is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana. In the recent budget presented on 28-02-05 it was announced that the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be increased from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has also been tabled in Parliament on 21.12.2004.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

Ratio of people below poverty line

†4591. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national ratio of people living below poverty line has declined to 22 percent;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.